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The original Newsletter editor was Major Mark Slatyer RAAMC, the current journal editor assuming the role for the March 1993 edition.

# Australian Military Medicine Association

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AMMA Newsletter

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## Inaugural Issue of AMMA Newsletter

This first issue of the newsletter has finally arrived after a long gestation. The purpose of the newsletter is to serve as a clearing-house of information on what is happening within the health services in the Australian Defence Forces. We are interested in news of any policy changes and initiatives from AMMA members or others. You are invited to contribute material to the newsletter which is topical and original. Scientific papers are welcome as well as less formal communication of relevance to health care practice within and outside the defence force. The newsletter will only be as good as the quality of the contributions of its members.

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### A Message from the Surgeon General Australian Defence Force

It is with great pleasure that I note the launch of the AMMA Newsletter. The publication of the Newsletter marks another step in the evolution of the AMMA towards the goals envisaged by the originators of the concept. In the case of the Newsletter the ultimate goal is that it will become a fully fledged journal of military medicine.

The practice of military medicine is, I believe, becoming a much more well defined form of medical practice than it has been in the past. While many of the facets of military medicine have their civilian counterparts, for example occupational medicine, public health medicine and, of course clinical practice it is the application of these disciplines to military operational circumstances which requires the special skills and knowledge of the military medicine practitioner and which distinguishes the practice

of military medicine from civilian practice.

Notwithstanding the distinction I have drawn above, there are sufficient common areas in military and civilian practice for the military medical practitioners' activities to be considered suitable and appropriate training for certain civilian qualifications. I find this extremely gratifying and acknowledge our indebtedness to those bodies who have seen fit to provide the military medical practitioners with these privileges.

I have no doubt that the Newsletter will serve as an important forum to spread the concept of military medicine as a discrete form of practice as well as a means of conveying specialised information relevant to the practice of military medicine to those engaged in that practice. I offer the Editor and those involved in its production my best wishes for a successful enterprise.

Air Vice Marshall M. Miller A.O.  
Surgeon General  
Australian Defence Force